

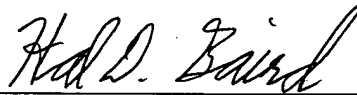
REMARKS

This case is a continued prosecution application. Claims 1-26 are in the case. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner enter the proffered amendments to claims 1, 4, 11, 14, 18, 21, and 24. Applicants respectfully assert that the proposed amendments place all claims in condition for immediate allowance.

In the event the examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of any of these claims that could be clarified in a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully urged to initiate the same with the undersigned.

DATED this 25 day of April, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 25, 2001

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